

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR(Kuybyshev Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Economic and Political Conditions in the USSR	DATE DISTR.	4 June 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	4
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT	
		REFERENCES	

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In the small village of Upravlencheskiy, approximately 10 to 12 km north-northeast of Kuybyshev, USSR. [redacted] food, clothes, and other necessities of life from the Soviet economy, either in Upravlencheskiy or in Kuybyshev. After the currency reform in the USSR, conditions improved steadily, and by 1949-1950 all commodities were available at all times without any rationing. The only exceptions were sugar and flour, which were not rationed but rarely sold. Once or twice a year, the Soviets decreed price reductions for various articles, which always produced a great buying rush in the first days. However, after a very short time prices went up again to the former level. Also, most food prices, for example, of milk, eggs, and meats, underwent seasonal changes every year. Shopping was done in state-owned stores and bazaars, where people often stood in line for advertised bargains. Only Soviet party and government officials were entitled to enter the shops without waiting in line, a measure which was silently tolerated by the other Soviets. Most

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Soviets complained privately about prices in comparison to their earnings. Workers in Zavod No.2 made 500 to 800 rubles per month on the average, engineers 1,000 to 1,200 rubles per month, much less than the Germans who worked there.

Food prices:

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Butter	1 kg, 38 -40 rubles	
Vegetable shortening,	1 kg, 22 -24	"
White bread	1 kg, 3.50	"
Black bread	1 kg, 2.30	"
Sugar(powder),	1 kg, 12	"
Roasted coffee	1 kg, 70	"
White flour	1 kg, 9	"
Gray flour	1 kg, 5 -6	"
Millet	1 kg, 5	"
Eggs	1 doz. 24 -36	"
Milk	1 liter, 5 -6	"
Beef	1 kg, 12 -18	"
Pork	1 kg, 18 -25	"
Liver	1 kg, 8	"

Cigarettes were very good and cheap; a good brand cost two rubles for 25 cigarettes.

Clothing:

Men's shoes (mostly imported from Czechoslovakia), leather, 200 - 250 rubles

Men's shoes, cloth fabric with rubber sole, 50 -60 rubles

Ladies' shoes, leather (mostly imported from Czechoslovakia) 250 - 300 rubles

Men's suits (imported, good quality), 1,000 rubles

Material for men's suits (imported, good quality), 250-300 rubles per meter

Coats (padded), 800 - 1,000 rubles

Silk stockings, 30 -40 rubles

Housing:

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[redacted] rent prices were the same for Soviets and Germans in this settlement. The rent was calculated per square meter, plus separate charges for electricity, canalization, and perhaps one or two other items [redacted]

[redacted] a bedroom and a living room (about 4.5meters x 5meters each), a kitchen, a bathroom (which was not installed), and a small hall. [redacted]

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total monthly bill, including extra charges, was 183 rubles, [redacted]

In this particular house, plumbing and water supply was good, electricity very weak in the winter months. The water closet, like all sanitary installations in this area, was very primitive and bad.

Medical care: [redacted] experience with Soviet hospitals and doctors was very satisfactory. [redacted]

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In every case [redacted] in the hands of competent doctors and nurses, who

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attended to their duties with personal human interest. On other occasions [ ] children were treated for minor ailments in the same way. All drugs, including penicillin, were readily available and were extremely inexpensive. Doctors, hospitalization, and dentists are free of charge since every working person pays compulsory health insurance through payroll deduction. Dentists in this area operate with old and outmoded equipment, and their treatment is rather primitive and not up to western standards.

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Religion: [ ] never saw or heard of any obstacles against exercise of religious beliefs. Nevertheless [ ] observed very few people going to churches in this area, and they were mostly old.

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[ ] the state of Russian public and political opinion in the locality.

[ ] the great majority of Soviets in the locality and the plant [ ] agree in principle with the Communist system. [ ] hardly any real criticism aside from griping about prices and wages in a way which is more or less common everywhere. In occasional discussions with the Soviets, it was always pointed out [ ] that, contrary to the capitalistic system their system insures constant employment, income, housing, medical care, and old age pensions for everyone, and that these achievements and security outweigh by far the higher living standards of a "few" in a capitalistic country. The Soviet people are not hostile to Americans, Britishers, or even Germans but are afraid that those countries want to destroy the Communist system in the USSR, and that the USSR would have to starve for the sake of capitalists again. The intelligentsia believe that in the long run war will be inevitable, because the capitalistic countries are afraid of the awakening of their own people, who see the working of a just economic system for the masses in the USSR. Everyone seems to be sincerely convinced that the Soviet Union is on the defensive against capitalistic aggression, undoubtedly the result of an incessant propaganda by newspapers and broadcasts. The yearly State loans, much disliked by everybody, are always explained and advertised in terms of defense against the growing western armament and aggression. "Peace" propaganda is very effective with the average Soviet, even if people are otherwise generally tired of all the political propaganda of the party line and hardly listen anymore. Naturally it has to be taken into consideration that any Soviet opposed to the present system would hardly voice his opinions in public, or tell a German "foreigner",

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[ ] the majority of people in this area do not want a change of system.

[ ] political and police activity.

Political activity was directed by the Communist Party and labor union offices located at Zavod No. 2. The Soviet personnel received schooling along party lines several evenings a week. Similar educational courses were attempted for the Germans, but it was easy to evade them. [ ] no information regarding political activities in the town. [ ] relatively few employees and workers in the plant, probably not more than two per cent of the personnel, were Party members. The Soviets in general were aware of the existence of secret police and were most careful to avoid attracting their attention. A certain Major KOLYCHENKO was the official

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MVD representative in Zavod No.2 where he had an office. He was also the commander of the factory guards and supervised the pass control system and handled personnel questions for the Soviets and Germans. His office investigated any suspected sabotage or breakdown measures in the plant. He also issued the travelling passes for day-visits for Germans to Kuybyshev. There was not much difficulty in obtaining such a permit, except when too many Germans applied for the same day. Many Germans also credited Major KOLYCHENKO with being the head and supervisor of the informer system in the plant. It was generally believed that perhaps ten per cent of the employees and workers, German and Soviets, were used by the MVD as spies. They had to submit verbally or in writing reports of their observations. Germans "hired" for this activity in the beginning reported about the work performance of their colleagues in a certain section or department. Later they could not get away from this so-called "supervision". They had to make frequent periodical reports about the others. [redacted] no harm ever came to anybody from this spying. [redacted] calculation engineer WIEMANN was known as collaborator and informer. In the first years he was befriended by engineer KLEINAU, also in the same department. Later, these two quarreled and KLEINAU told [redacted] that WIEMANN had not made his reports to Major KOLYCHENKO but to an MVD civilian who lived in the Russian VIP housing section in Upravlencheskiy, where he had a special office. All KLEINAU knew was that this man, an Asiatic type, was a superior to the major and the head of the informer system. He was never seen in the plant.

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